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CORRECTION ISSUED:

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JUL 27 AM 7 27

OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MESSAGE CENTER

FROM: BERLIN--CORRECTED COPY PAGE 1.

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 105, JULY 21, 7 PM.

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 105, BONN 98, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 25,
PARIS 23, PRIORITY GENEVA 39, PRIORITY POLAD USAREUR 15.GENEVA FOR HILLENBRAND: PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, CINCEUR THURSTON
AND WEST.FOLLOWING IS AMPLIFIED ACCOUNT INCIDENT DESCRIBED USCOB'S
268 TO CINUSAREUR, REAPED INFORMATION CINCEUR PARIS AND
EMBASSY BONN:

AMERICAN MILITARY FREIGHT TRAIN NO6300 WESTBOUND FROM BERLIN
MADE ROUTINE STOP POTSDAM RAILROAD YARD (APPROXIMATELY
5 KM INSIDE SOV ZONE) AT 1937 HOURS JULY 20. AMERICAN TRAIN
COMMANDER, CAPT. C. P. LAND, OBSERVED EAST GERMAN PERSONNEL
APPARENTLY INSPECTING TRAIN. DISEMBARKING FOR PURPOSES
OF INVESTIGATION, LAND SAW TWO EAST GERMAN CUSTOMS POLICEMEN
NEAR AMERICAN FLAT CAR AND ONE EAST GERMAN CLIMBING ABOARD
CAR. ALL THREE EAST GERMANS WERE ARMED. CAPT. LAND ORDERED
EAST GERMAN OFF CAR AND HE COMPLIED IMMEDIATELY. OTHER TWO
EAST GERMANS APPROACHED AND TOLD LAND HE SHOULD RETURN TO HIS
CAR IMMEDIATELY AS HE NOT PERMITTED GET OFF TRAIN. LAND REPLIED THEY
MUST FIRST DESIST FROM EFFORTS BOARD TRAIN. EAST GERMANS STATED THEY
WERE IN CHARGE AND WOULD TO AS THEY PLEASED. LAND REPLIED THEY
HAD NO JURISDICTION OVER THIS TRAIN AND REQUESTED SPEAK WITH
SOV OFFICER. EAST GERMANS STATED THEY WOULD CONFER WITH THEIR
SUPERIOR AND ONE EAST GERMAN DEPARTED. BEFORE SUPERIOR ARRIVED
OR OTHER ACTION TAKEN TRAIN DEPARTED POTSDAM (NOT ON ORDERS
U.S. TRAIN COMMANDER: PRESUMABLY ON INITIATIVE EAST GERMAN
TRAIN ENGINEER) AND CONTINUED JOURNEY WITHOUT INCIDENT.

Correction made
by RM/R
11/1/59

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Authority

NND 877418

By

BG NARA Date 10/26

732.0221/7-2105

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-2- 105, JULY 21, 7 P.M. FROM BERLIN

BERLIN COMMAND U.S. ARMY REPORTS THAT TRAIN CONSISTED OF 34 CARS ALL CLEARLY MARKED WITH USUAL AMERICAN IDENTIFICATION. TRAIN WAS PROCEEDING ACCORDING FIXED SCHEDULE ON WHICH INFORMATION GIVEN EAST GERMAN REICHSBAHN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE. FLAT CAR BOARDED WAS ONE OF FOUR CARRYING SIGNAL EQUIPMENT (TELEPHONE CABLE AND MICRO-WAVE SPARE PARTS) UNDERSTOOD PROCURED BERLIN FOR U.S. AIR FORCE.

NO RECORD HERE OF PREVIOUS ATTEMPT EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS ATTEMPTING BOARD AMERICAN MILITARY TRAIN. USCOB PROTESTING TO SOV COMMANDANT RE FOREGOING INCIDENT.

GUFLER

F.D.-22

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By <u>BG</u> NARA Doc <u>10/25</u>